

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-18, and 20-25 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 13, 17, and 20 have been amended. Claims 12, 19, and 26-29 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-18 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended the claims to correct the minor informalities in the claims 1-18 and 29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12, 19, and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Widjaja et al. (Performance Issues in VC-Merge Capable Switches for Multiprotocol Label Switching, IEEE Journal, Vol. 17, No. 6, June 1999). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 12, 19, and 26-29.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-11, 13-18, and 20-25 contained allowable subject matter. In view of the forgoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims (claims 1-11, 13-18, and 20-25) are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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